

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2/4/92 TAKEN QUESTION

February 4, 1992

RELEASED IN FULL

VENEZUELA: ATTEMPTED COUP

Q. What is the situation in Venezuela?

A. -- THE ATTEMPTED COUP IN VENEZUELA IS FAILING. JUST BEFORE NOON, A COUP LEADER, COMMANDER HUGO CHAVEZ FRIAS, CALLED ON THE REBELS TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS. REBELS IN CARACAS AND MARACAIBO HAVE SURRENDERED. ISOLATED POCKETS OF REBELS REMAIN IN VALENCIA, SOUTHWEST OF CARACAS.

-- VENEZUELAN MEDIA HAS REPORTED 54 CASUALTIES (DEAD AND WOUNDED) IN THE ATTEMPTED COUP. THERE ARE SOME REPORTS OF SCATTERED LOOTING IN ONE SUBURB OF CARACAS.

-- THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS IN CARACAS AND MARICAIBO HAVE BEEN OPENED.

-- THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET LATER TODAY TO RATIFY THE 10-DAY SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES COVERING LIBERTY OF TRANSIT AND FREEDOM TO ASSEMBLE, PROTEST AND STRIKE.

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